

M.



OMEGA

Speedmaster

AUTOMATIC

January 2023

i83

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Dear Parent/Carer, Happy New Year! The sale season always seems to be upon us doesn't it? I diligently avoid the sales at any time of the year and in most years...except this one because I had to take my unresponsive iPhone into the Apple store at Meadowhall and Mrs. R 'volunteered' to accompany me.

So, there I am sat, surrounded by a growing number of bags, waiting patiently outside the OMEGA store.

It was very busy and I occupied myself (my appointment at Apple 45 minutes away) by counting the number of people passing me, both ways, in one minute. (It seemed to be fitting sat outside a watch shop!). I did this about six or seven times and the numbers were remarkably consistent. Around 100 people passed me every minute. It was very busy. It struck me that this simple exercise revealed something about life to me in the way people walked past.

Some were pacy with a very clear destination in mind. These invariably walked quickly and with a definite purpose. Occasionally a little child speeding, sat in a buggy, in front or being dragged behind.

Others meandered, phone in hand, either, idly chatting to pass the time, or to meet up at one of the many coffee shops. These were there for the shopping experience rather than with any specific goal. Almost like passersby.

In all of these were people of every shape and size, colour and creed. If there was ever an advertisement for diversity, then Meadowhall was it.

There were more obvious differences in the way people dressed and even in the variety of bags which advertised the shops that they spent their money.

It has to be said that not very many (if any) people visited the OMEGA Store in the 20 minutes I was sat outside.

Ω is an uppercase Greek symbol, omega. It is not only a logo but has uses in Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Computer Science.

It is also **the symbol for the end of everything. The end of days!**

In this vein, Pope Francis has very recently painted a grim picture of the future during Mass celebrating the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron of Mexico at the Vatican on Sunday 11th December, warning he sees "greater omens of greater destruction and desolation" in the world.

Francis said the Feast day, which commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to a young man in 1531 in Mexico City, came at a "complicated and difficult time for the inhabitants of the New World." He related it to present day, noting we are also living through "a difficult time for humanity ... a bitter period, full of the roar of war, of growing injustices, famines, poverty, suffering." "And although this horizon seems bleak and disconcerting, with omens of even greater destruction and desolation, his divine love and his coming down to us tell us that this too is a propitious time of salvation," the pope added.

It is clearer now than ever that, regardless of our differences, we rise and fall together relying upon each other as we pass through this life, be it at the times we meander or have, to paraphrase St John Henry Newman, some definite purpose, focussing instead on the opposite of omega, Alpha – beginnings.

God Bless us all for new beginnings and a positive start to the NEW YEAR.

John Rooney
Headteacher